

Participant Statement

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

In the Matter of:

FISHERS LANDING NY 13641

Post Office State ZIP Code

A2011-55
Docket No: _____

MICHAEL BRAYEN & _____ Petitioner(s)
LIST OF 114 SIGNATURES FROM PATRONS OF
THE FISHERS LANDING POST OFFICE WHERE
THE PETITION SAT FOR ONE WEEK ALREADY
SUBMITTED

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning
The FISHERS LANDING post office. The Final Determination was posted 08/09/11 _____.
(Date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.c. § 404(d) (5), the Petitioner(s) request
The Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of
the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's
Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further
consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law
requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if
you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

1. "The Postal Service, in making a determination whether or not to close or consolidate a post
office shall consider:
(a) the effect of such closing or consolidation on the **community** served by the post office."

We contend that closing the Fishers Landing Post Office will destroy the community. We are a
bedroom community in the winter and a thriving waterfront residence in the summer. We have
one seasonal restaurant, 2 seasonal marinas, and a church open 2 months in the summer. We DO
NOT have a diner, a grocery store, a gas station, a library or any suitable place for the "new
Village Post Office" concept. We meet and exchange news at the post office. Our only community
bulletin board is at the post office. The post office and the postmaster are the center of the
community. This may not have been the intention when the postal service came into existence but
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in rural areas it's the American way. The postmaster's official job is to deliver incoming mail and accept and send outgoing mail. His/Her unofficial job is to know who died, who had a baby, who is turning 80 etc. and keep the community informed. Without our post office, we will have no place to gather and spread news to interact with neighbors and meet summer transients. This extra service of providing a meeting place and displaying community events on a bulletin board, may not generate revenue directly. Indirectly it fosters a feeling of appreciation for the postal service and sees it as a benefit to society. Closing a small office like ours may seem to save money but in the long run it will deter people from sending the mail they send now. Do you honestly think a person especially an elderly one on a fixed income is going to drive 5 miles to mail a letter or a birthday card? And if they want to send a package will they drive that 5 miles or will they switch to ups/fedx as they are mad at the post office.

Jeffrey Sands (Manager, Post Office Operations) who met with us in the informal meeting on April 29th responded by mail to some of our concerns ,

“Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize and share information at other businesses, churches, and residences in town.” The original proposal to close states “Businesses and organizations include; none.” SO where is it we should meet by chance?

“The Clayton Post Office (that's the post office they propose take over our delivery service) MAY have a public bulletin board which may be used to post the same information.” MAY? Wasn't that part of the study? First of all if they had conducted a proper study of our post office they would have set us up for delivery out of LaFargeville not Clayton. LaFargeville is at least in the same township and would have posted relative events, but regardless who is driving a ten mile round trip to read a bulletin board??

“Additionally perhaps the town or the fire house would be willing to erect a bulletin board for community use.” We DON'T have any town office to house a bulletin board and how often does one visit a town office or the fire hall? PO Box users visit the post office on a regular basis.

2. In the proposal to close, Part IV ECONOMIC SAVINGS It states:

Postmaster salary	33,168
Fringe benefits	11,111
Annual lease costs	4,200
Total annual costs	48,749
Less annual cost of	
Replacement service	12,531
Total annual savings	35,948

We proposed a part time non career employee and offered to pay for our boxes. This would have offset the savings and USPS wouldn't consider it. They don't come back with better solutions or any actually. They seem to think the residents should find a solution. A multi-billion dollar corporation with staffs of legal experts and a real estate division that handles the leases, thinks WE should find a place to relocate our office? We can't reiterate enough times, that we don't have a grocery store or gas station to house a Village Post Office. WE should have known enough 3 years ago to apply to be a station so we could get part time hours? How would WE know that? What has the Postal Service done since our post master retired to help us out?

(generous as ours is 35948) average. 120,000, 000 million dollars across the country for 3000 post offices. It's a drop in the bucket to the losses they are having and it's not the problem. The problem is corporate overhead, not the small post offices.

IF USPS came to us with a viable solution, the people here would jump on it. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know we don't need a full time postmaster. But as Americans we expect to receive some degree of service from the post office. Someone posted the history of the post office on the board and I believe it said we have had a post office for 137 years. According to the attached newspaper article published in 1936 it was Washington that gave our town its name of Fishers Landing when the post office here was established. We don't have a route or an option for delivery to our homes. The postal service made that choice years ago not the current residents. It's not our fault our office doesn't generate revenue but if you add the cost of carrier delivery you aren't paying into our revenue it sure looks better.

The postal service says the cost to replace delivery is 12,531? Who is kidding who? They so far haven't agreed that we can put up boxes for a carrier. That means in addition to paying a carrier, they have to lease or buy land (here on the Waterfront) and build and maintain a kiosk. I don't know what a kiosk costs, I have no clue what they have negotiated for rent and maintenance of a kiosk, but I know they aren't getting a carrier to handle the small winter delivery and a huge summer delivery and a nightmare of forwarding in between seasons for less than 12, 000.

3. The postal service did a study, or so they say. We are of the opinion that it was a bogus and meaningful study. They came in the dead of winter and counted our revenue and transactions. Did they do one in the summer when we have our peak occupancy or just when we were at our lowest. They insist the Clayton post office can handle the additional positions. Did they drive through Clayton during the summer or the winter?

4. The postal service contends we have 69 PO Box customers, and our revenue units have gone from 63 in 2008 to 70 in 2009 and to 60 in 2010. Mr. Sands says revenue units is not the same as paid po boxes so we are uncertain as to what a revenue unit is? He also says "active Po box customer data is generated from the webbats program. Fishers Landing have no-fee Box customers that are required to submit proof of residency annually to verify they are entitled to the no-fee service?" Really? Not since I moved here in 2005. Possibly we had 69 customers in the winter receiving mail and closer to 150 in the summer. But what a revenue unit is remains a mystery. The way in which the postal service set up our post office for failure was premeditated and vindictive. The Postmaster retired in 2008. The post office was in a deplorable state. Since that time we have had 6 OIC's. The first was a clerk that got the pleasure of cleaning up the mess and tried to catch up the neglected paperwork and files. The people liked her and she would have done a great job in turning the place around. Instead she was sent off after a brief time. Since then we have had 5 more OIC's. Two were carriers who had basic knowledge of mail categories but had never worked in an office and were dumped in. One was from the closed processing plant and knew even less. All three of these were left to sink or swim. By the time they figured out the basics they were shipped out. We also have had two more clerks. They have the knowledge to do the job but are not allowed to spend enough time in the office. Currently the summer people think the PMR is the OIC and the OIC the sub as they see so little of him. Is this the proper way to operate a business? In a letter, received from Jeff Sands, Manager of Post Office Operations he states "We often keep post offices open to help absorb displaced employees from other internal staffing changes or to permit multiple opportunities for training and developing of our employees." In other words we were thrown to the wolves and are now being blamed for lost revenue. Could it be the training and development procedure doesn't work well? IT IS A FACT that the webbats program is non-operational and the Postal service has NO CLUE as to how many box holders they even have, and any they have that should be paying annual renewal rent aren't being charged. The current PMR didn't even know until questioned this week about monthly box letter and address verifications. HE doesn't have access to Webbats or the computer access to properly run an

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office. He is doing the best he can with his hands tied. Currently he has no Ready Post products to sell and lacks the authority to order them. Jeff also states that revenue dropped considerably from 2009 to 2010. Well if you aren't selling supplies and you're not even collecting rent any rent, what do you expect? If people have left because there has been no consistency and knowledgeable employees can you blame them? Also isn't revenue down all across the nation? So much for a study? It is a fact that our office has no ready post product for sale. I sent the pictures in my last letter. If you don't collect revenue for any boxes and you don't sell ready post why wouldn't revenue be decreasing as well as the state of the economy. We live on the Saint Lawrence River and we don't even sell duck stamps. This office has been so mismanaged it's pathetic.

4. The initial proposal said we had no businesses; The final determination listed a bunch of them. Several are outside the boundaries and have delivery from other post offices. The owners may live here or they may be getting a free po box they shouldn't have. Two are internet sales businesses. I guarantee there is no American Legion or Church of the Nazarene. If there were maybe you could get one of them to take on a village post office. There is no Year round business to support the new USPS business model.

5.

CONCLUSION:

6. Conclusion: The Postal Service has misrepresented the facts. The Costs are possibly correct, but the box-holders and the revenue Picture are incorrect, and this was your stated reason for closing. It must be reviewed and the Post Office must remain open. These are your rules.
7. The Postal Service after 2008 made no real attempt to make the Post Office Profitable. The Post Office must consider that they ARE the only year around business in this community. This is a second clear reason, again your rules; to keep the Post Office Open until a viable solution can be found, not dictated.
8. The Closing of the Post Office or consolidation must be consistent. The Post office by their own numbers, does not know how many people they actually serve in the Fishers landing Post Office on a daily basis. The Petition is clear fact that the numbers of box-holders is not even close to the actual number of real box-holders, paying box-holders etc... This again is consistent that the Post Office must re-open this discussion with the Fishers Landing Community.

Please accept this appeal on the 29th day of September, 2011. It is my expectation that the USPS will begin a new review, and do the right thing as opposed to just following process without consideration to the community the USPS named 137 years ago.

Sincere Regards;

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